

## SEVERITIES AT LUBECK.

The inhabitants were dreadfully oppressed, but all the cruel measures and precautions of the French were ineffectual, for the Allies advanced in great force and occupied Westphalia, which movement obliged the Governor of Hamburg to recall to the town the different detachments scattered round Hamburg.

At Liibeck the departure of the French troops was marked by blood. Before they evacuated the town, an old man, and a butcher named Prah, were condemned to be shot. The butcher's crime consisted in having said, in speaking of the French, "Der teufel hohle sie" (the devil take them). The old man fortunately escaped his threatened fate, but, notwithstanding the entreaties and tears of the inhabitants, the sentence upon Prah was carried into execution.

The garrison of Hamburg was composed of French, Italian, and Dutch troops. Their number at first amounted to 30,000, but sickness made great havoc among them. From sixty to eighty perished daily in the hospitals. When the garrison evacuated Hamburg in May, 1814, it was reduced to about 15,000 men.<sup>1</sup> In the month of December provisions began to diminish, and there was no possibility of renewing the supply. The poor were first of all made to leave the town, and afterwards all persons who were not usefully employed. It is no exaggeration to estimate at 50,000 the number of persons who were thus exiled. The colonel commanding the gendarmerie at Hamburg notified to the exiled inhabitants that those who

Davoust was bound to carry out, —made his conduct be bitterly attacked at the time, especially in England, where such matters were happily unknown in absence of invasion. Puymaigre, disliking Davoust personally, vouches for the Marshal having only done his duty; see *Puymaigre*, pp. 155-157. The defence, equally with the attack, of a large town, involves inevitable misery to the population, but it is hard to understand why all the blame is to fall on the defender. Davoust was, however, it must be allowed, a severe man. "As for me," said he, "when I am carrying on war I am obliged to leave my philanthropy in my wife's wardrobe" (*Diary of Henry Greville*, Second Series, p. 121).

To get more men Davoust impressed all the employes of the Government, etc., to their great disgust. He thus got some 1200 men, and drilled them to keep order inside the town. He could not, however, make them consider themselves soldiers. The Receiver-General, M. Garnier des Champs, was put on duty at his own door, and then begged that a real sentry might be put there, as he had much cash in his house. "He," said he, "could never pass for a real sentry." "Twelve Cossacks," says Puymaigre, one of their captains, "would have put my troop to flight;" see

*Puymaigre* ^ p. 159.